



Climate Disruption

Science, solutions and prospects for local leadership



**Green Ribbon
Commission**

March 29, 2005



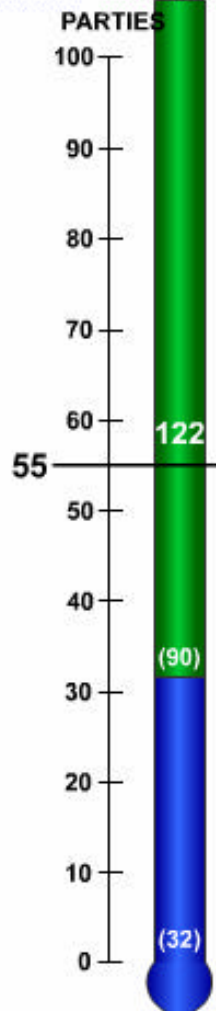
Signs of change.....



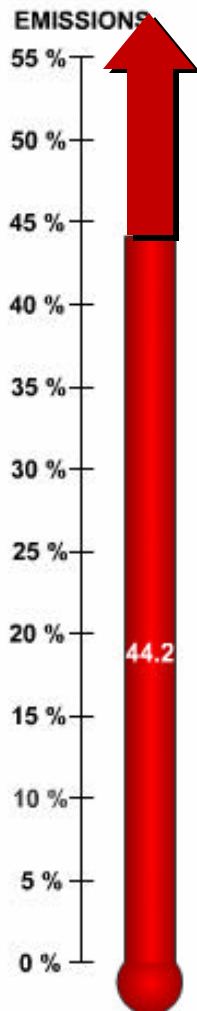
Kyoto: The developed world turns toward solutions... without the U.S.

KYOTO PROTOCOL THERMOMETER

ANNEX I - NON-ANNEX I



As of Thursday, April 15, 2005
Today's date: Tuesday, May 25, 2005



what if...?
[click here to find out](#)

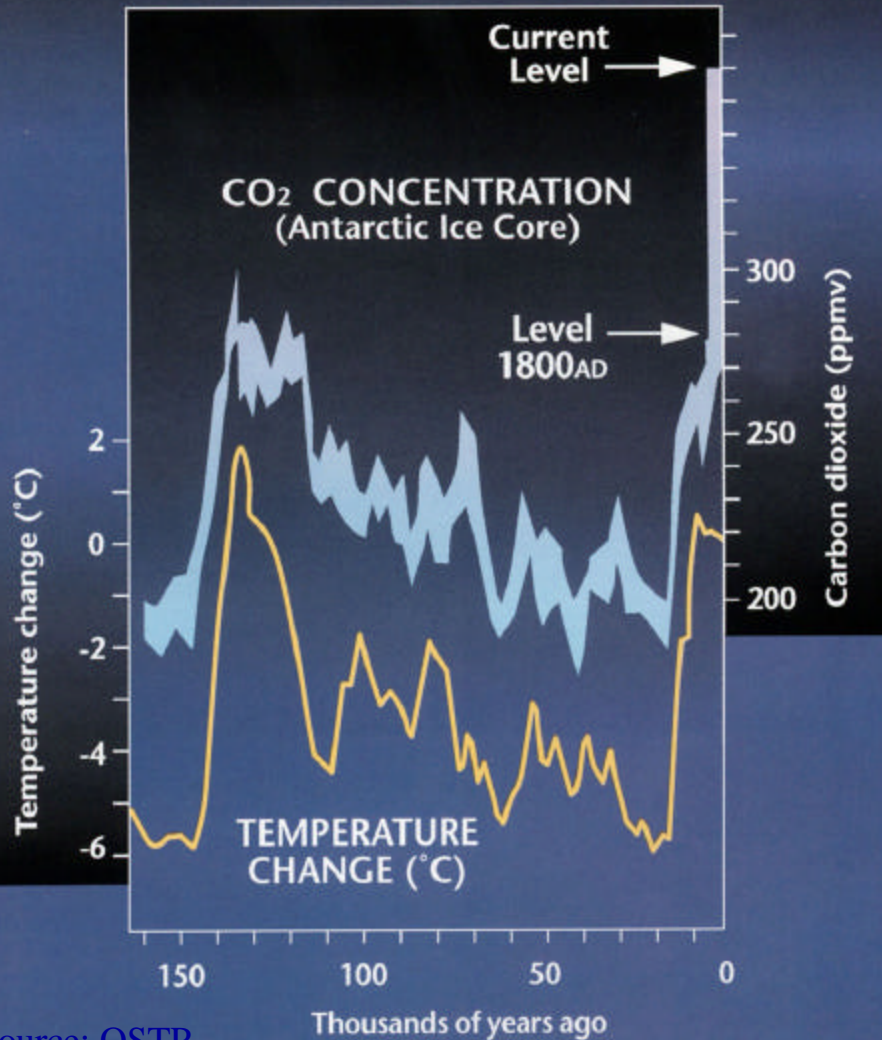
Links to:

[Kyoto Protocol](#)
[Ratification status](#)
[Total CO2 emissions](#)
[Annex I Parties](#)

- Took effect Feb. 16
- EU emission trading market is open
- Carbon limits are a fact of global commerce

Scientific consensus is robust: 928 peer-reviewed papers; zero dissent

Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide Concentration
and Temperature Change



- Clear correlation between CO₂ and temperature
- Current level of CO₂ is *outside* bounds of natural variability
- *Rate* of change in concentration of CO₂ is unprecedented

Seattle Times 12/1/04:
***Mount St. Helens the
state's No. 1 air polluter***

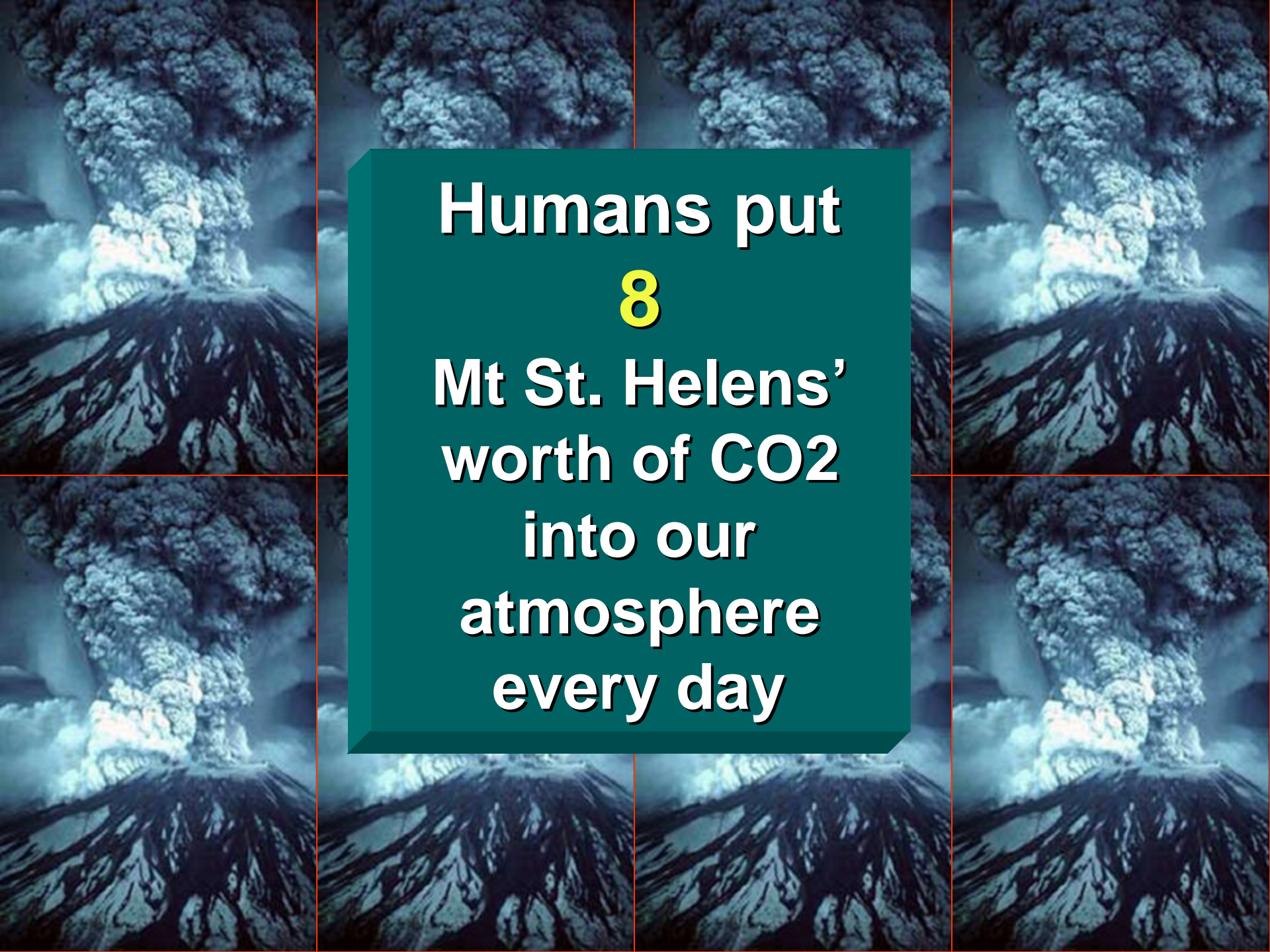
Front page: “The biggest single source of air pollution in Washington isn't a power plant, pulp mill or anything else created by man. It's a volcano.”



p. A18: “Compared to man-made sources, though, volcanoes' contribution to climate change is minuscule”

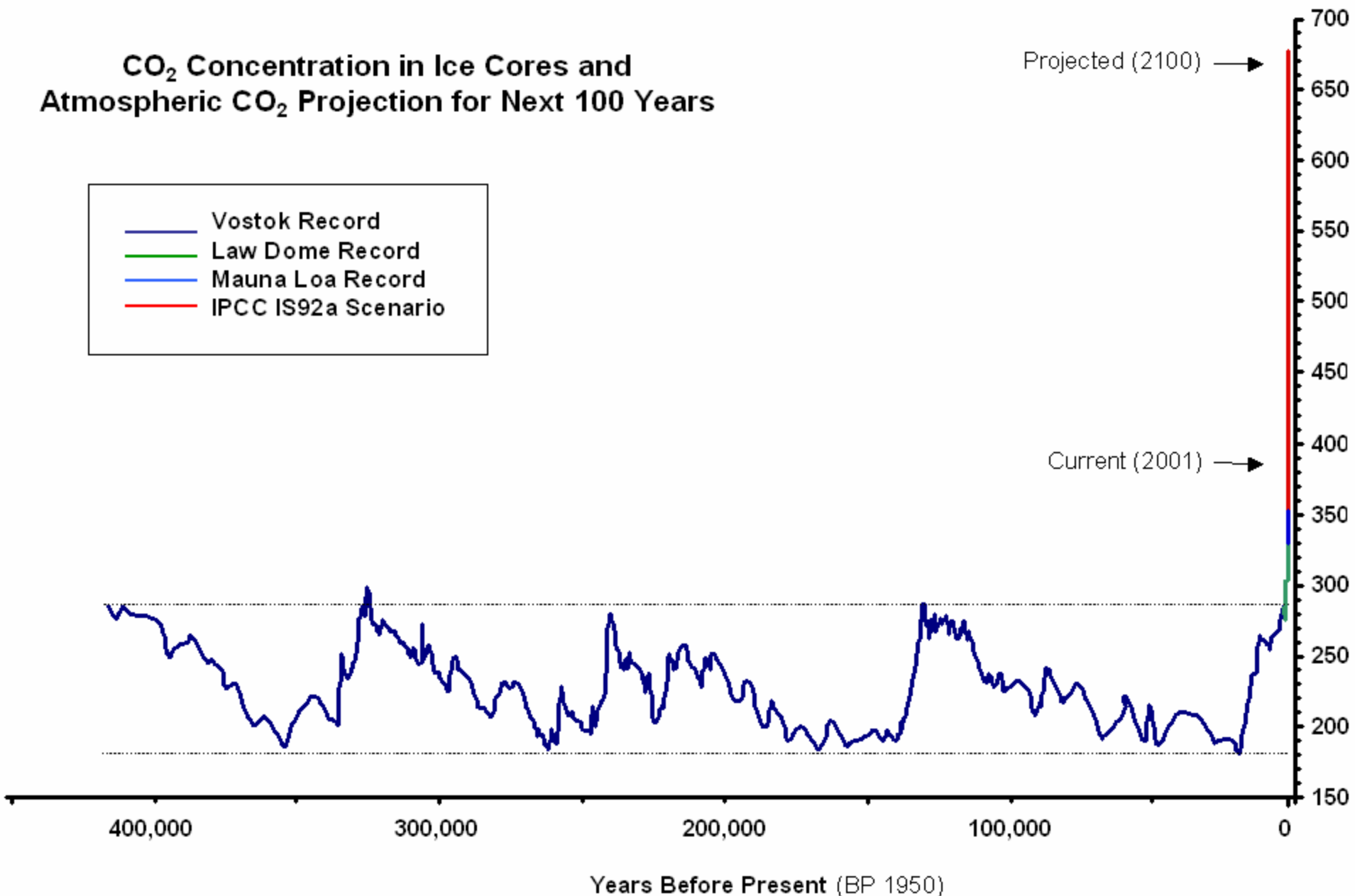
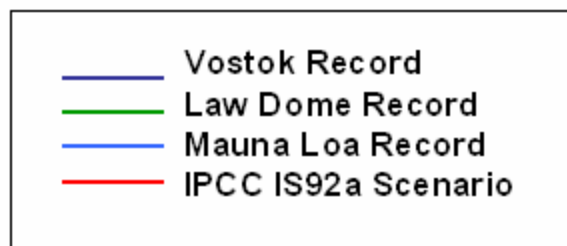
- CO2 from Mt. St. Helens: up to 1000 tons per day**
- CO2 from Centralia coal plant: 28,000 tons per day**
- CO2 from motor vehicles in WA: 148,000 tons per day**
- CO2 from all energy sources in WA: 270,000 tons/day**

Data sources: Washington CTED and Seattle Times 12/1/04



**Humans put
8
Mt St. Helens'
worth of CO₂
into our
atmosphere
every day**

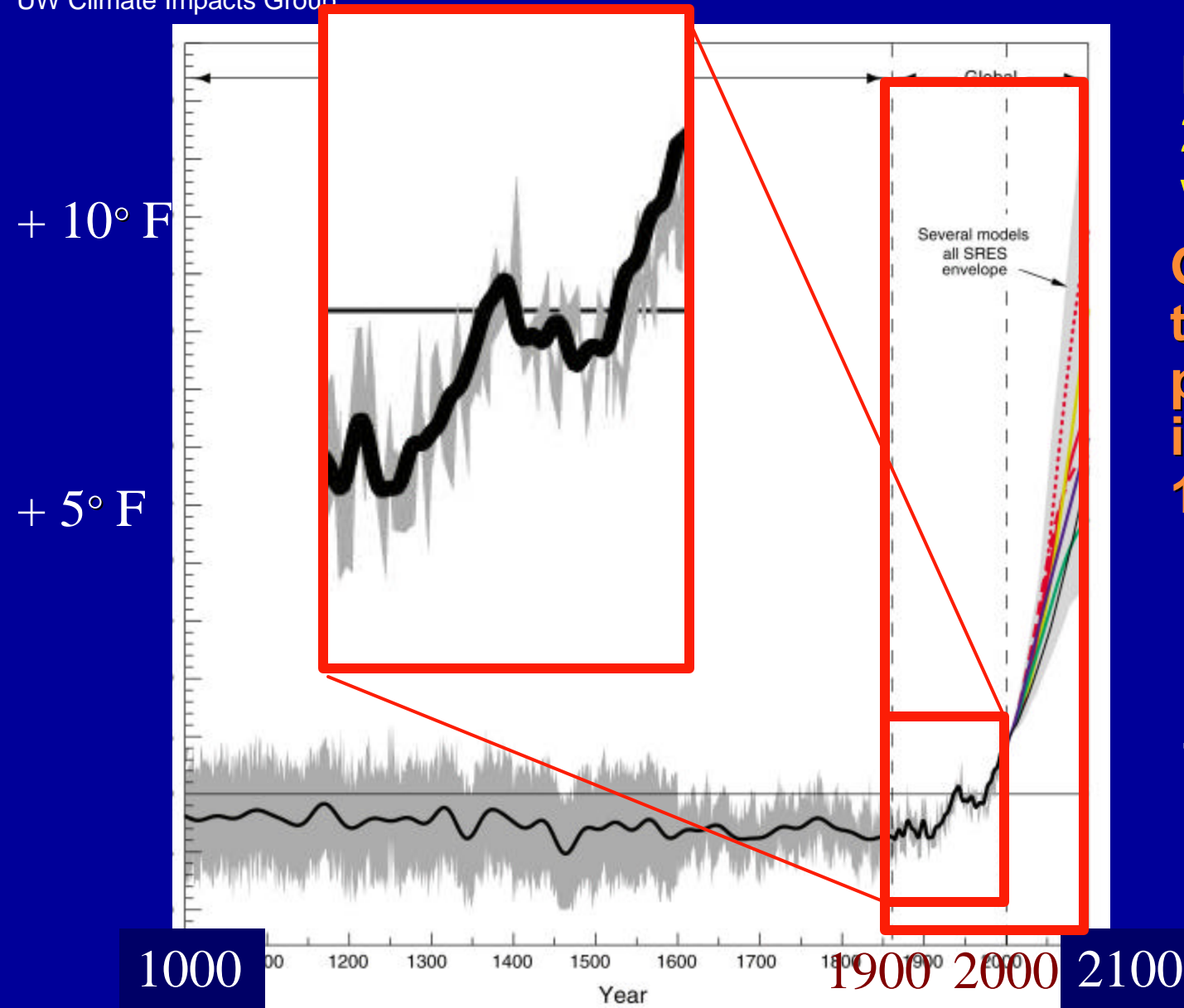
CO₂ Concentration in Ice Cores and Atmospheric CO₂ Projection for Next 100 Years



Source: C. D. Keeling and T. P. Whorf; Etheridge *et al.*; Barnola *et al.*; (PAGES / IGBP); IPCC

Global temperature: 1000 years back, 100 forward

Source: IPCC TAR 2001
UW Climate Impacts Group



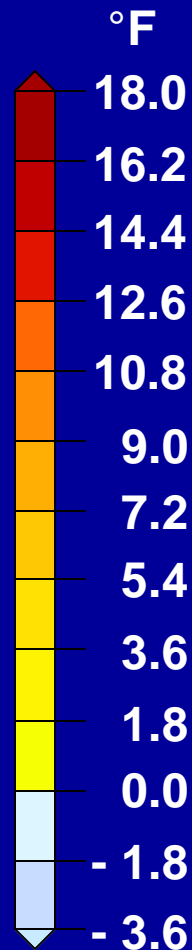
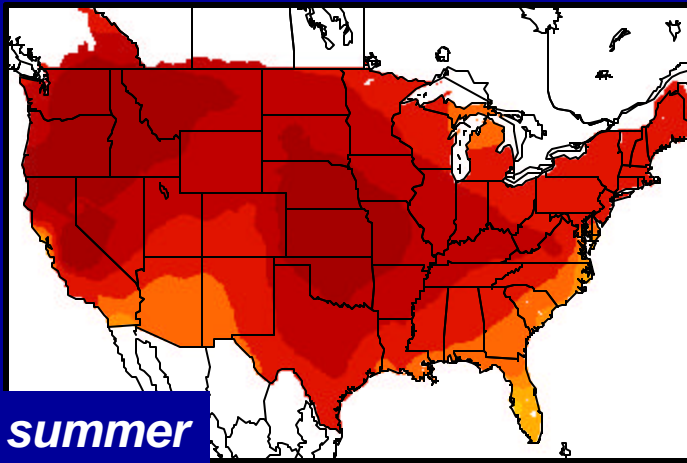
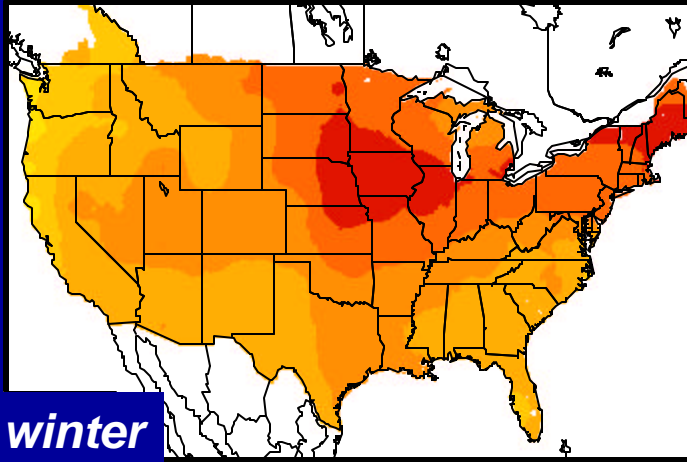
From 1900 to 2000 the planet warmed ~1°F.

Global average temperature projected to increase 2.5-10.4°F by 2100.

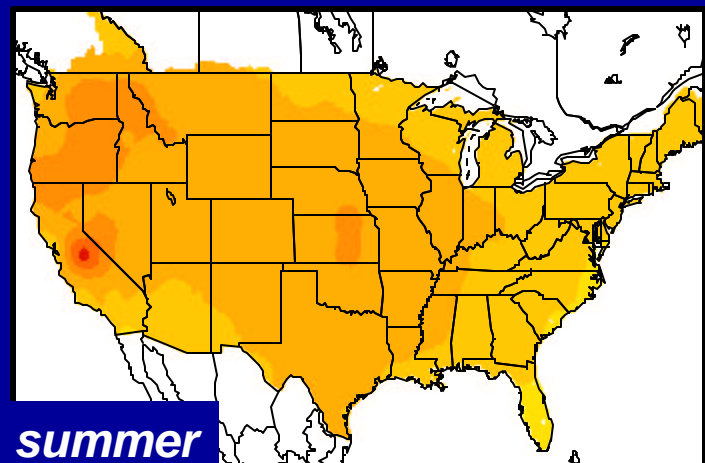
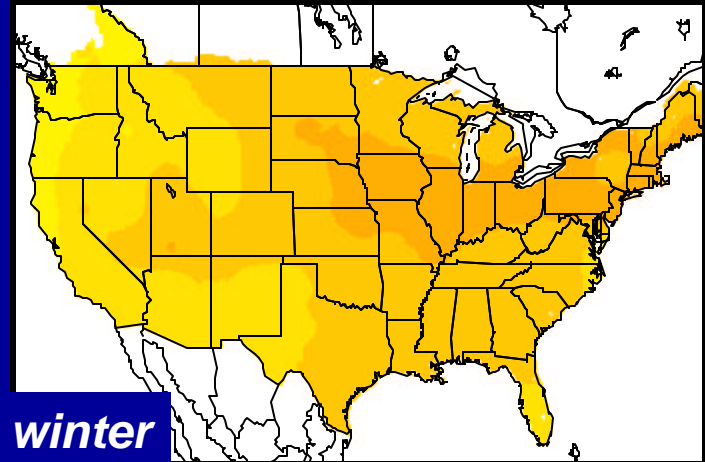
But nobody lives in the global average temperature

Projected Temperature Increase 21st Century

HIGHER EMISSIONS



LOWER EMISSIONS



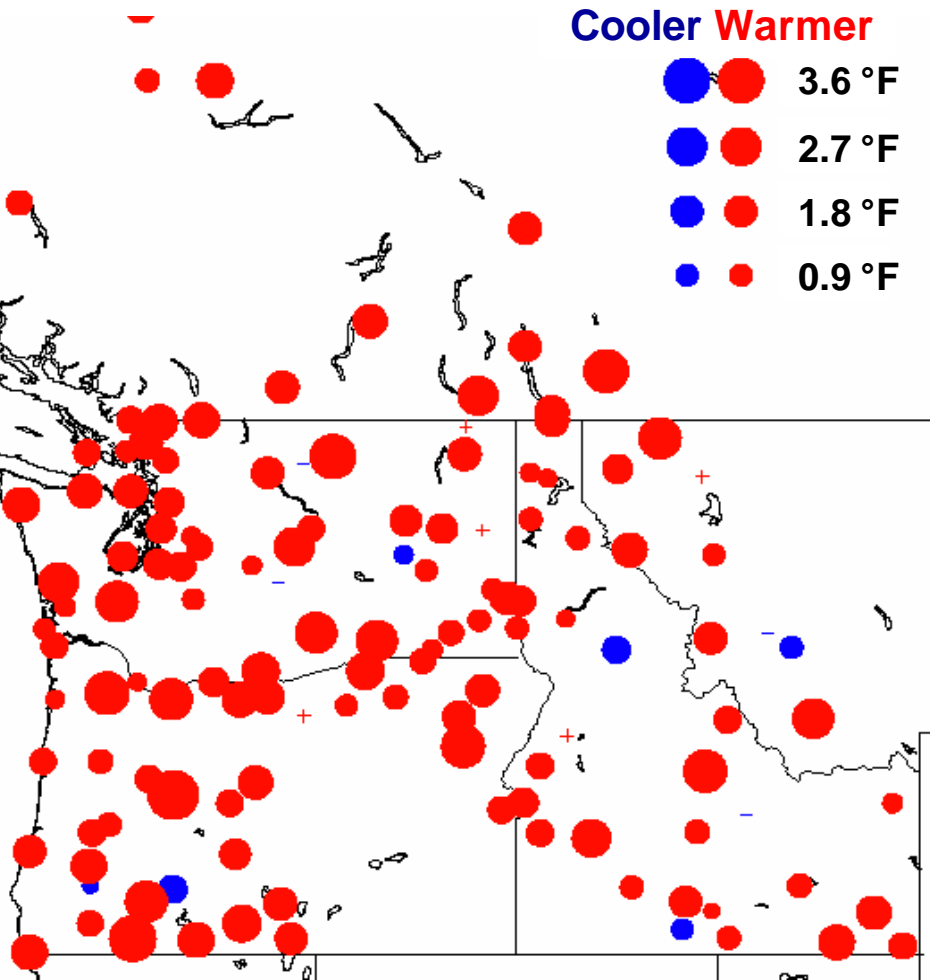
100 Solutions

Notes: HadCM3 model results for 2070-2099 vs. 1961-1990. Higher emissions = A1fi; lower emissions = B1 scenarios from IPCC Third Assessment Report. Downscaled results from E. Maurer (<http://www.engr.scu.edu/~emaurer/index.shtml>).

Observed PNW Trends

TEMPERATURE

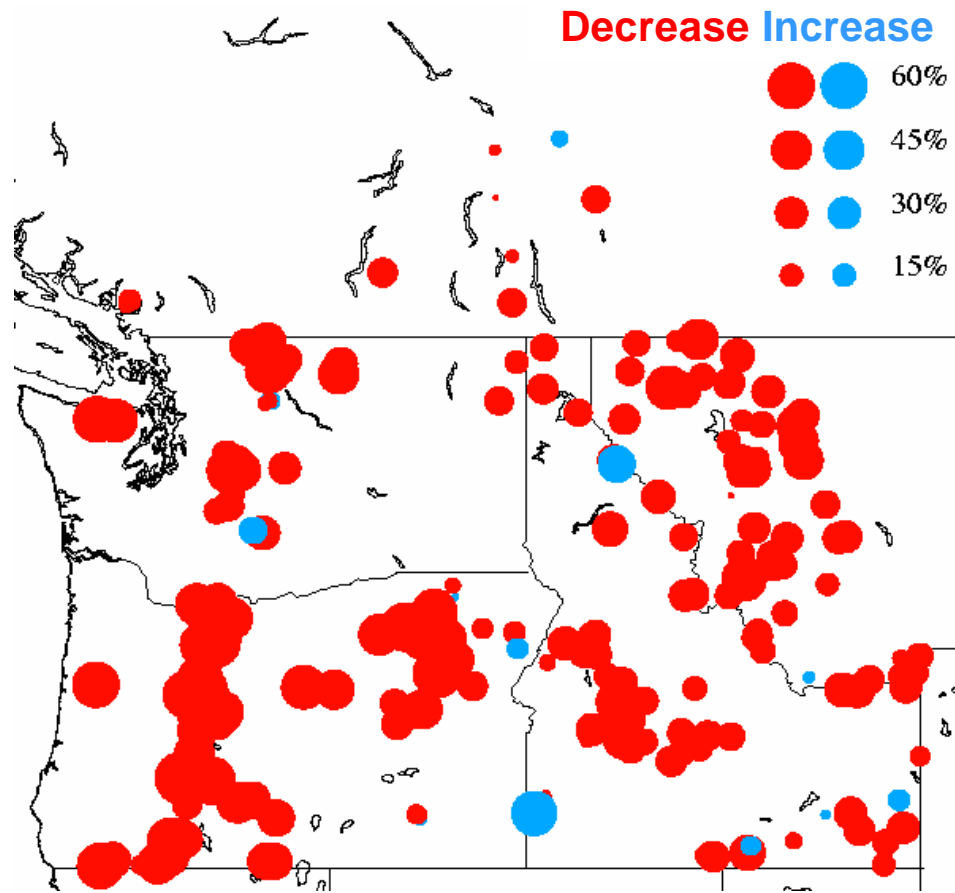
(°F per century, since 1920)



Source: Mote 2003a. Courtesy of UW Climate Impacts Group.

SNOWPACK

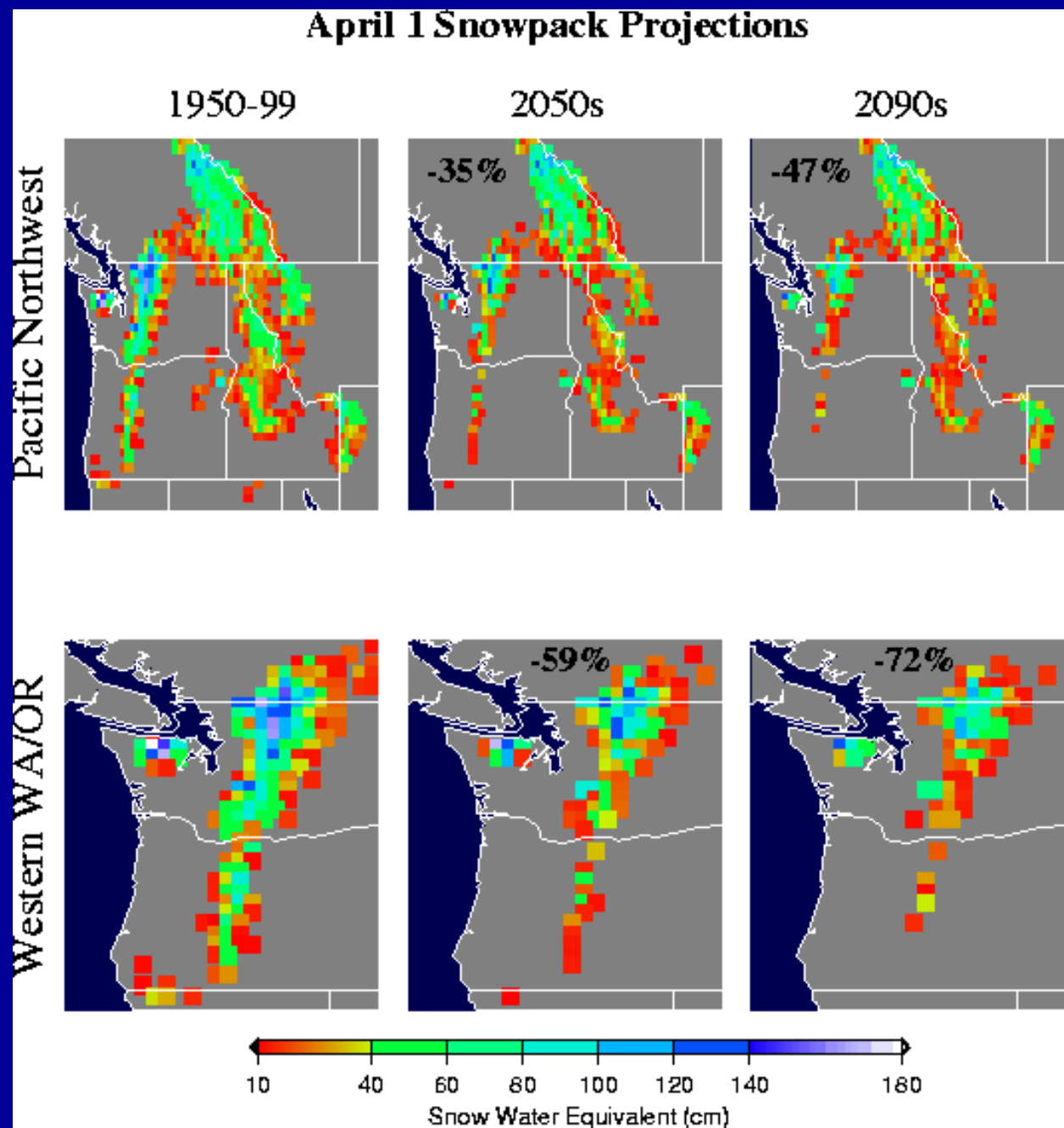
(Change 1950-2000, April 1)



Source: Mote 2003b. Courtesy of UW Climate Impacts Group.

NW Impacts:
Snowpack loss

Western
Washington
and Oregon
are especially
sensitive



Climate disruption and salmon

- Increased winter flooding – habitat destruction
- Decreased summer and fall streamflow
- Higher stream and ocean temperatures



“For the factors we can simulate with some confidence, the prospects for many PNW salmon stocks look bleak”

- UW Climate Impacts Group

Climate disruption and forests

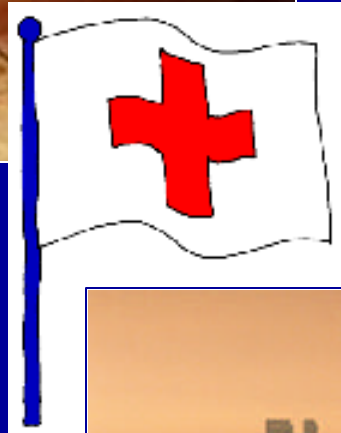
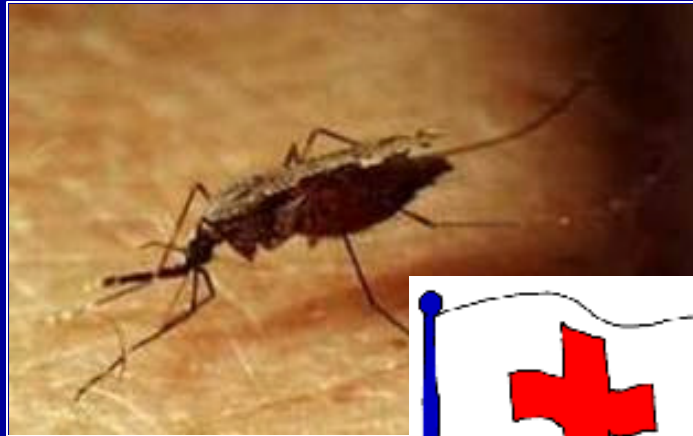
**“Disturbances”:
pests, diseases,
fires**

**Permanent loss
of some forests
after disturbance**



**Mild winters and warm
summers are the main cause of
the outbreak — David Suzuki Foundation**

Climate disruption and health



“It's not only going to be a warmer world, it's going to be a sicker world.”

Andrew Dobson, Princeton
epidemiologist



Financial costs of extreme weather events – Insured losses

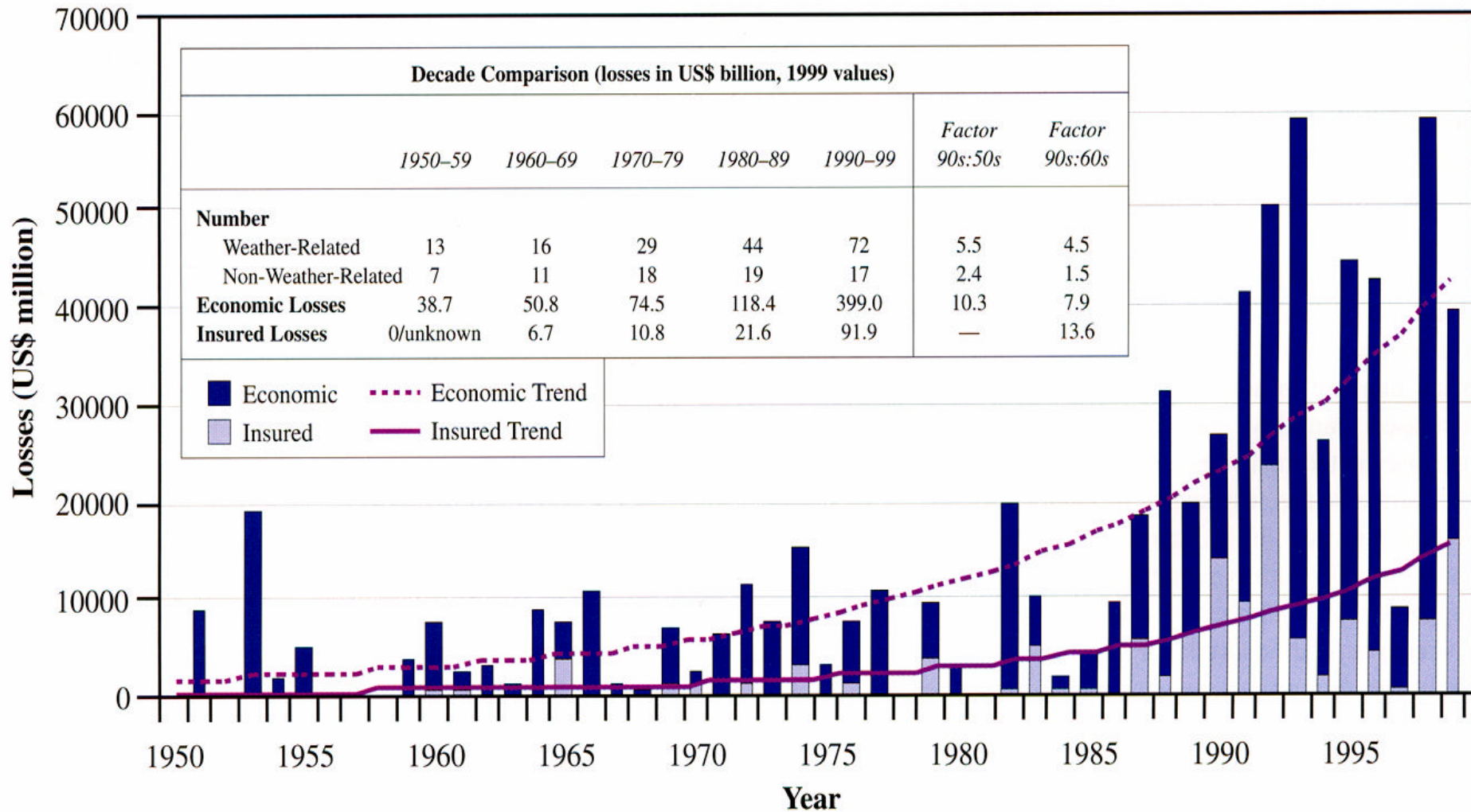
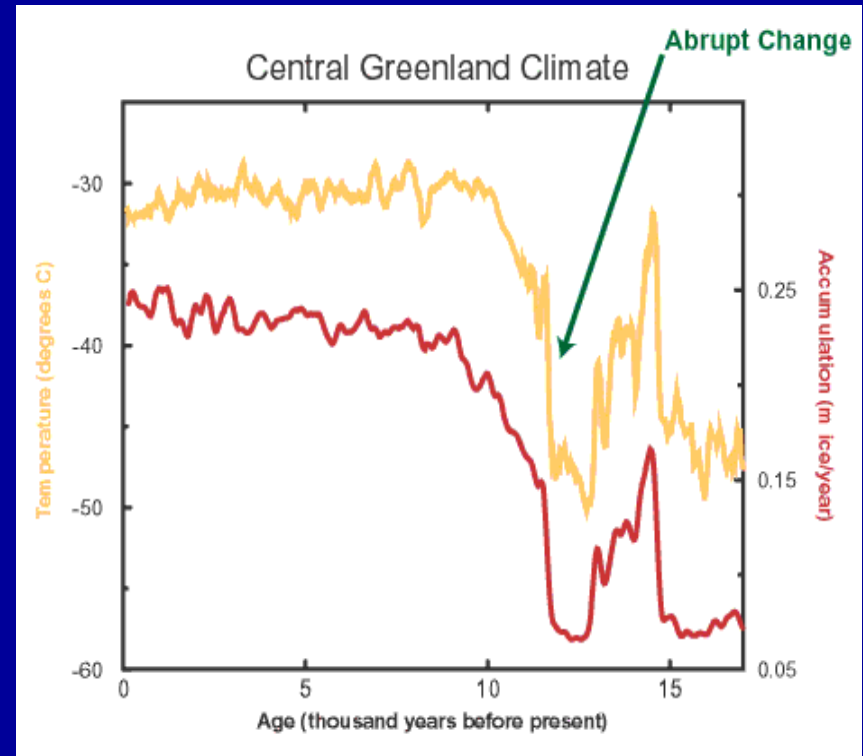


Figure TS-5: The costs of catastrophic weather events have exhibited a rapid upward trend in recent decades. Yearly economic losses from large events increased 10.3-fold from US\$4 billion yr⁻¹ in the 1950s to US\$40 billion yr⁻¹ in the 1990s (all in 1999

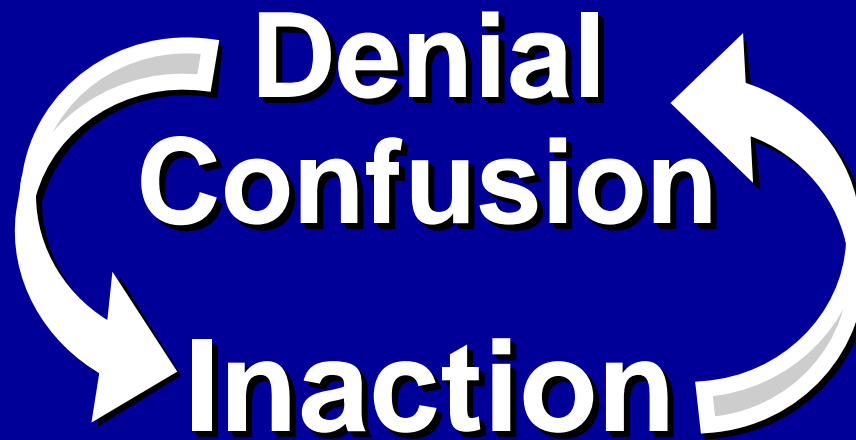
Science Fiction: The Day After Tomorrow

Science: “Abrupt climate change: inevitable surprises” — National Research Council, 2002

- We don't know probabilities or triggers.
- Uncertainty argues for prompt action.
- Adaptation requires stabilization.



Fortune, 2/9/04: “Climate collapse: The Pentagon’s worst nightmare”



“I don’t think this is a big issue, because nobody’s doing anything about it.”

We can break the circle with:

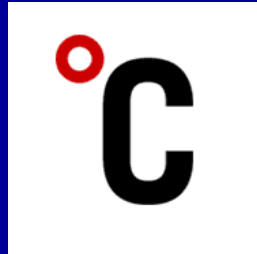


Approaching the Tipping Point: Clean energy transition drivers

- Energy independence and security
- Economics/Technology
 - Fossil fuel prices high, volatile
 - Clean energy coming of age
- Climate disruption:
Environmental necessity drives economic opportunity



Businesses are positioning



**“Business leaders say
climate change is our
greatest challenge”**

-World Economic Forum
Press Release



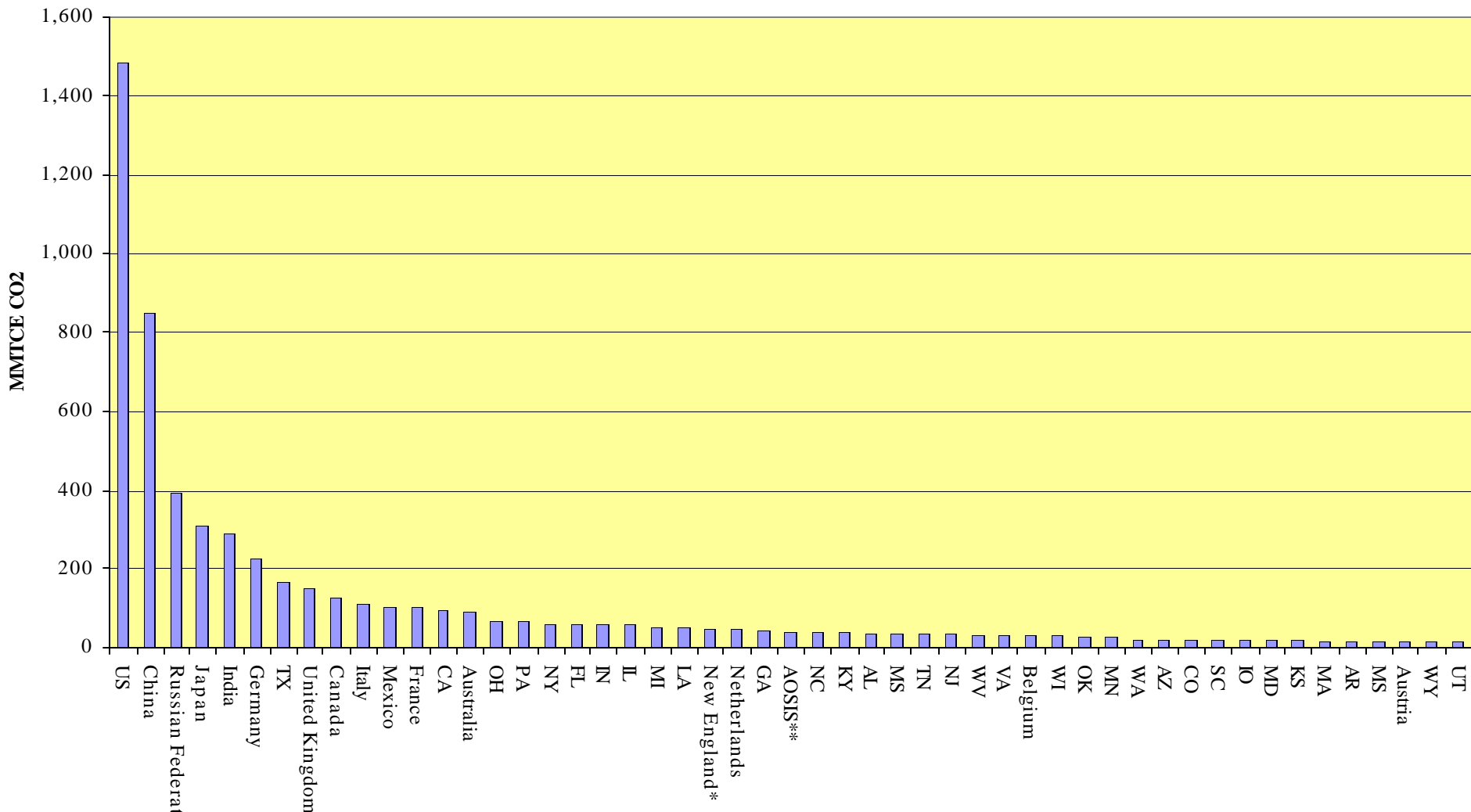
NYT: “The warming is global, but the legislating, in the U.S., is all local” Why are states and cities acting?

- **Environmental imperative**
- **Leadership vacuum**
- **Economic opportunity – positioning for prosperity in a low-carbon economy**
- **.....and they’re big!**

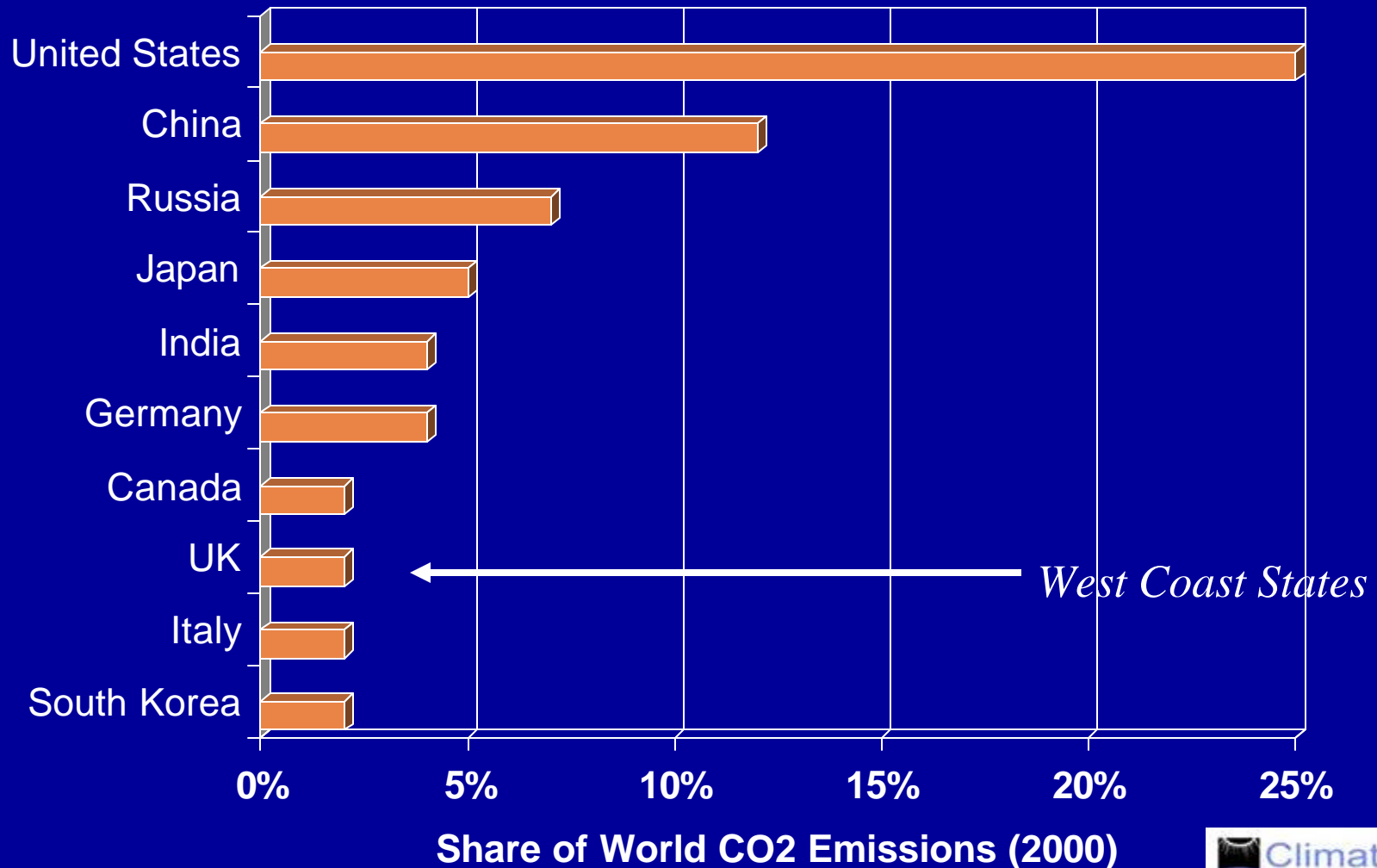
States are players

Top 50 Global GHG Emitters

Global GHG Emissions



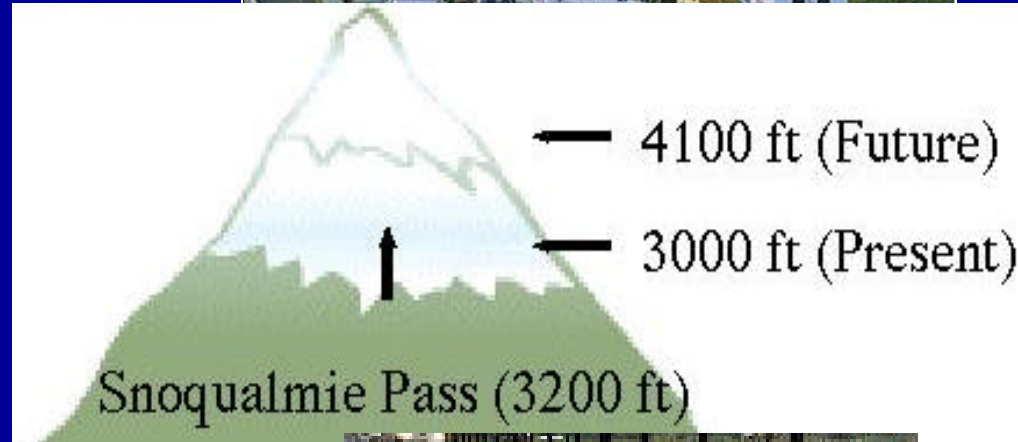
World's Top 10 CO₂ Emitters:



“Global” warming is a local, state, and regional issue

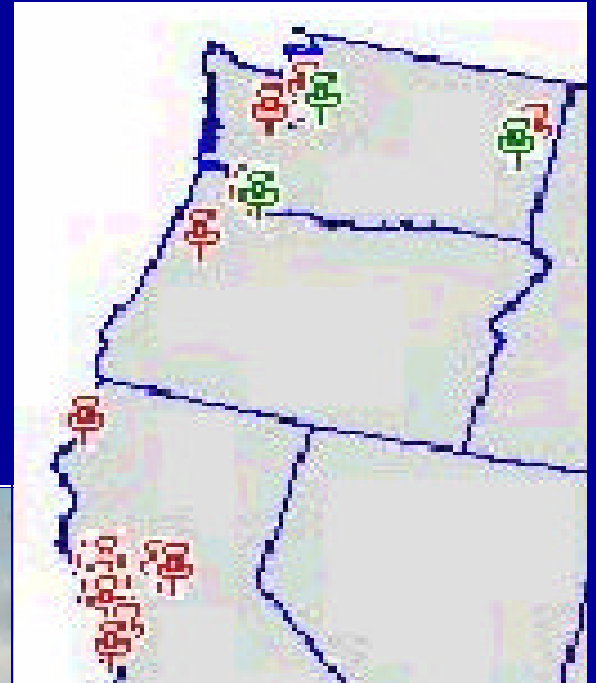
Causes: local and regional transportation and energy decisions

Impacts: local and regional resources, economies



“Global” warming is a local, state, and regional issue

Solutions: local and regional policy; energy innovation



Northwest clean energy leadership

Why here?

Hard assets:

- Hydro system: “renewable edge;” efficiency leaders
- Clean energy enterprise
- Technology leadership

Disposition:

Proving ground for a new prosperity



A New Path Forward: Action Plan for a Sustainable Washington
Achieving Long-term Economic, Social, and Environmental Vitality

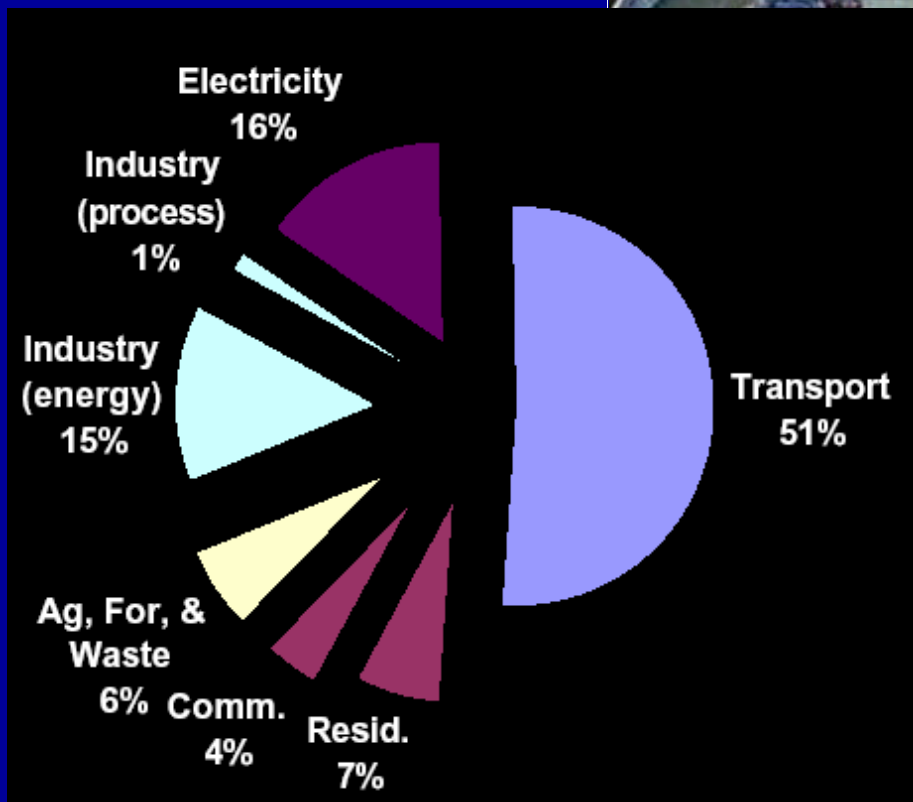
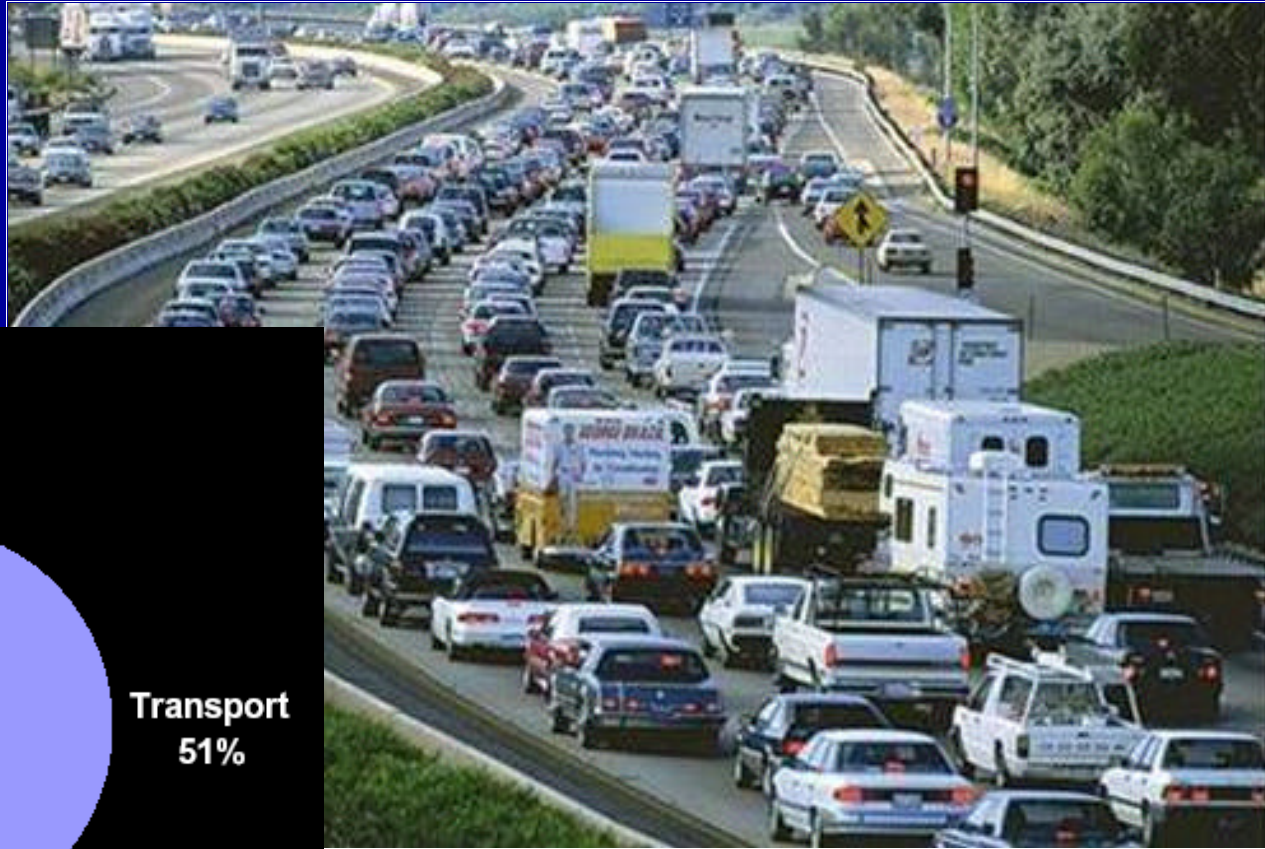
Submitted to Governor Gary Locke
February, 2003
Governor's Sustainable Washington Advisory Panel



Local actions feed regional momentum, international resolve

- **2000 – City Light aims to zero out GHGs**
 - **Efficiency and renewables meet growth**
 - **Offsets establish carbon trading, seed biodiesel market**
- **2003 – State adopts first climate policy**
- **2003-4 West Coast Governors initiative**
- **2004 – Clean Air Agency collaborative develops consensus agenda**
- **2005 – Kyoto enters into force**

But as a community, our emissions continue to rise...



US Passenger Vehicles: *Global Role*

Leading CO₂ Emitters

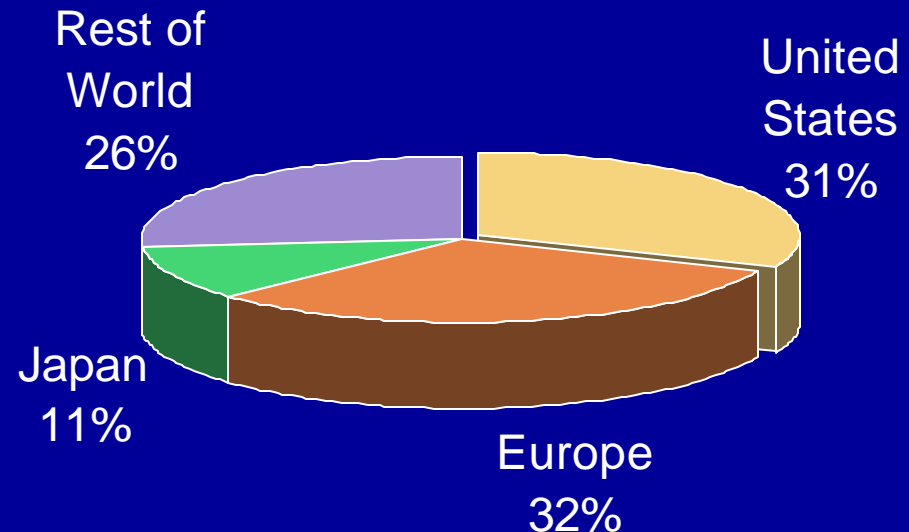
Nation	MMTCO ₂
United States	5,787
China	2,861
Russia	1,570
Japan	1,138
India	914

Source: EIA 2004; EPA 2004

US Passenger Vehicles (1,072)

Source - UCS

Global Vehicle Market



Source: Wards 2003

Clean Car Standards:



- **Eight states have adopted Low Emission Vehicle (LEV II) standards.**
 - **Air quality benefits (esp. air toxics)**
 - **Consumer benefits, longer warranties**
- **New standards for global warming pollution deliver 30% reduction from new vehicles by 2016.**
- **Economic benefits:**
 - **Allocate air resources to the local economy.**
 - **Reduced fuel bills: > \$2 billion by 2020.**
 - **Opportunities in clean car technology.**
 - **Transform North American auto market**

Going forward.....

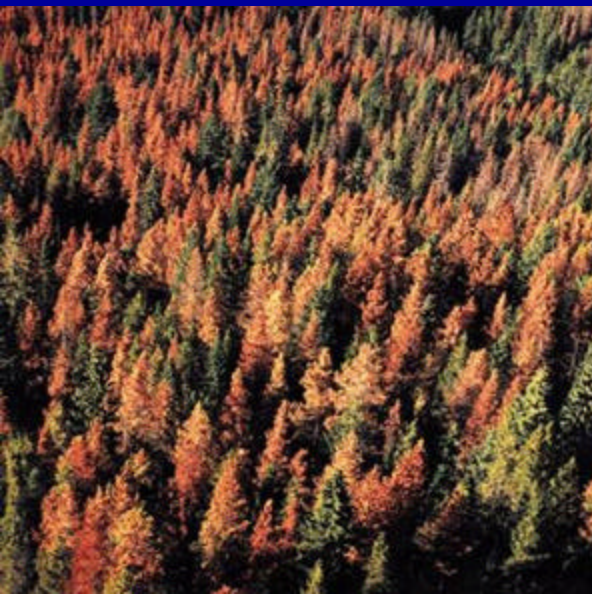
- **Set our sights; establish a results-oriented policy framework**
- **Engage the community**
- **Catalyze wider technology and policy changes**
- **Reduce dependence on fossil fuels**
- **Build our clean energy economy**





Climate Disruption

Science, solutions and prospects for local leadership



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